

## THE CITY OF CLAYTON

Board of Aldermen – 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting  
City Hall – 10 N. Bemiston Avenue  
April 23, 2013  
7:50 p.m.

### Minutes

Mayor Sanger called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. The following individuals were in attendance:

Aldermen: Michelle Harris, Andrea Maddox-Dallas, Cynthia Garnholz, Mark Winings, Joanne Boulton, and Alex Berger III.

Mayor Sanger  
City Manager Owens  
City Attorney O'Keefe

### PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PETITIONS

None

Mayor Sanger presented a proclamation for "Local Government Week April 28 – May 4."

### Other

Mayor Sanger – (also see attached) *Well, as those of you who have come to this meeting know I have been coming for several months and I've been sitting in the back of the room next to Chief Byrne on a very hard wood chair, Chief, I'll tell you this chair is much more comfortable. I do want to say having spent so much time with Chief Byrne as a "seat mate" I have come to appreciate him more than just as the Chief of Police and the fact that he is going to be retiring at the end of this year is certainly going to be a loss for the City of Clayton. 41 years with the City of Clayton and I have to tell you he is respected through the region. Thank you Chief.*

*Well, tonight is really not about me and it's not really about Linda, it's about the leaders that came before us, it's about the leaders who took the culture that Ralph Clayton and Martin Hanley entrusted to them and brought us through the first 100 years. And now it's our turn, our time to leave a legacy for those who come after us. To that point I'd like to recognize some of the people who have helped us get to this position and the most recent former Mayor, if I may say that for the first time, Linda Goldstein who you've heard a lot about tonight she graciously occupied this chair for six years and spent 4 1/2 of those six years working the city through the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. She steered our city through those times with grace, intelligence, hard work, tenacity and in spite of the obstacles continued to move Clayton forward with monumental achievements and for that we are very grateful and thank you.*

*The former Mayor Ben Uchitelle, with whom I spent my formidable years as alderman and who is singularly most responsible for my Clayton government involvement, set the tone for my aldermanic years with an enthusiasm for our city and a clear understanding of the responsibilities that those of us involved in the democratic process were charged with. His and his wife Susan's contributions to the culture of our city will live well into our second century, thank you for being here Ben.*

*Former Mayor Frank Kenney, my mayor for six out of my nine years as alderman taught me what leadership is all about. He was a great mentor to me and to date has been a great sounding board in a source of wisdom. I must say however, that I am sitting up here against his advice, there was something about needing a mental health checkup.*

*Under Frank I have learned the art of collaboration, how to be a more patient person, and about the development of my leadership style, well, silly me and as a bonus I learned more about electromagnetic fields from high tension power lines than I ever wanted to know (it's an inside story from a long time ago).*

*Well, there's many people to talk about, but I'm not going to do that right now. I hope that you all will join Diane and I at a reception that we are hosting across the street at Napoli after the meeting.*

*The immediate days after the election I planned to meet one-on-one with all of the alderman and with a few select Clayton leaders, it's one of my favorite things to do and I completed that goal yesterday. Without exception everyone was enthusiastic and ready to move our city forward as a team. There were two exceptions to the level of the enthusiasm, my concern you see was that three of us had put our heart and soul into this campaign. We all worked hard and spent many hours away from our families and we pushed ourselves mentally and physically. So in a situation where there's no second place I had some concerns about how the other two candidates would react after the election, silly me. They were the most enthusiastic, they expressed the desire to be part of the team, they had the most desire to help our Board achieve the things that will make Clayton an even better place all coming from the two people who did not get the most votes. Those two people have incredible style, grace, and passion for our city and of course they are Alex and Michelle. Please join me in welcoming them in their dedication to our city.*

*So, I am excited, I am enthused, fired up, eager, gung ho and ready to take our city into its second century. With that note I want you know this is the last time you will hear me talking about me, because I am sick and tired of talking about me. It's not about me it's what, as a collective we in this room as servant leaders can accomplish on behalf of our citizens. There will be difficult decisions to make; there will be times when not everybody will be happy, new challenges will arise.*

*To paraphrase what Bill Clinton said "there is nothing wrong in America that can't be fixed with what is right in America," I say there is nothing wrong in Clayton that can't be fixed by what is right in Clayton.*

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

---

Mayor

ATTEST:

---

City Clerk

Explain normal after meeting procedure of going around the room.

I am taking mayoral privilege tonight to go first.

Have spent the past few months sitting in the back w Chief Byrne –retiring at the end of 2013. This chair is much more comfortable.

=====

Even though tonight is mostly about me and Linda, it really is not about us. It's about the leaders of our city who came before us, who took the culture that Ralph Clayton & Martin Hanley entrusted to them to bring us through our 1<sup>st</sup> 100 years, and now, it's our time and our turn to leave a legacy for those who come after us.

To that point, I would like to recognize a few people that helped get us here. Linda G who graciously occupied this chair for 6 years, spent 4½ of those 6 years working the city through the worst economical recession since the great depression. She steered our city through these times with grace, intelligence, hard work, and tenacity, and in spite of the obstacles, continued to move Clayton forward with monumental achievements. For that we are very grateful.

Former Mayor Ben Uchitelle, with whom I spent my formidable years as a alderman, and who is singularly most responsible for my Clayton Gov involvement, set the tone for my aldermanic years with unabated enthusiasm for our city, and a clear understanding of the responsibilities that those of us involved in the democratic process are charged with. His and his wife Susan's contributions to the culture of our city will live on well into our 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

Former Mayor Frank Kenney, my mayor for 6 of my 9 years as alderman, taught me what leadership is about, became a great mentor to me, and has to this day been a great sounding board and source of wisdom. I must say however, that I am sitting up here against his advice. Something about the need for a mental health checkup. Under Frank I learned the art of collaboration, how to be a more patient person (that did not work very well), and the development of my leadership style. And as a bonus, I learned more about electromagnetic fields from high power lines than I ever wanted to know.

I have many people to thank, but let's save that for the reception at Napoli after we adjourn.

In the immediate days after the election, my goal was to meet one on one with each of the aldermen and a few selected Clayton leaders. It's one of my favorite things to do and I completed that goal yesterday. Without exception, everyone was enthusiastic and ready to move our city forward as a team. There were however, 2 exceptions to the level of enthusiasm. My concern you see, was that there were 3 of us who put our heart and soul into the campaign. We all worked hard, spent many hours away from our families and pushed ourselves mentally and physically. So in a situation where there is no 2<sup>nd</sup> place, I had some concerns about how the other 2 candidates would react after the election. Foolish me. The most enthusiasm, the most expressed desire to be part of the team, the most desire to help our board achieve the things that will make Clayton an even better place came from the 2 people who did not get the most votes. Those 2 people, who have incredible style, grace and passion for our city are of course, Alex and Michelle. Please join me in recognizing their dedication to our city.

I think it is interesting to note that among the many messages of congratulations that I received, many people were in awe of the respect that we had for each other and the lack of personal attacks that typically mark an election. But then again, this is a special place, it is after all, Clayton.

So, I am excited, enthused, fired up, eager, gung ho, and ready to move our city into its 2<sup>nd</sup> century. With that note however, this is the last time you will hear me talk about "me". It is not about me, it is about what the collective "we" in this room as servant leaders can accomplish on behalf of our citizens. There will be difficult decisions to make, there will be times when not everyone will be happy. New challenges will arise, but to paraphrase Bill Clinton who said: **"There is nothing wrong in America that can't be fixed with what is right in America"**, I say, **there is nothing wrong in Clayton, that can't be fixed by what is right in Clayton"**.

**OK, I'm done – Michelle, take it away.....**